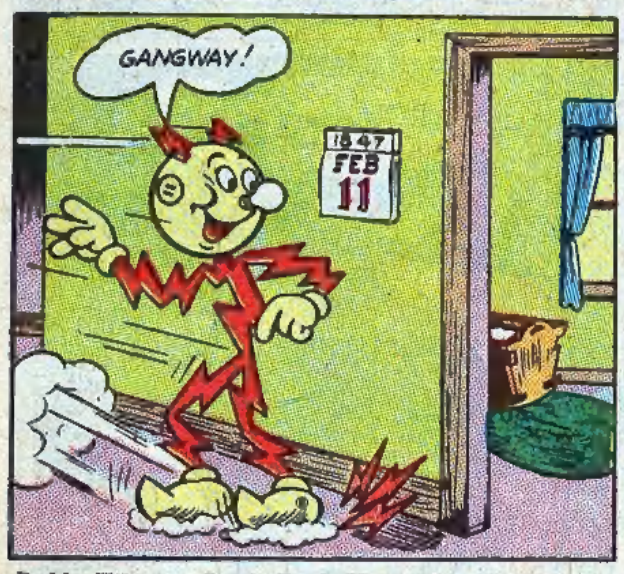
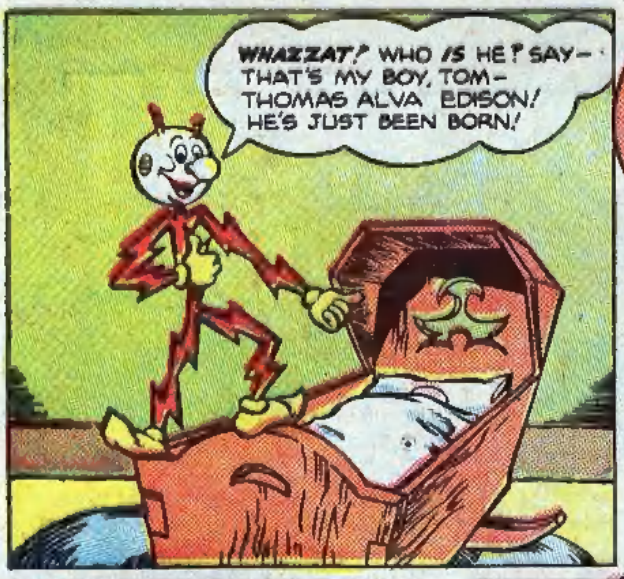
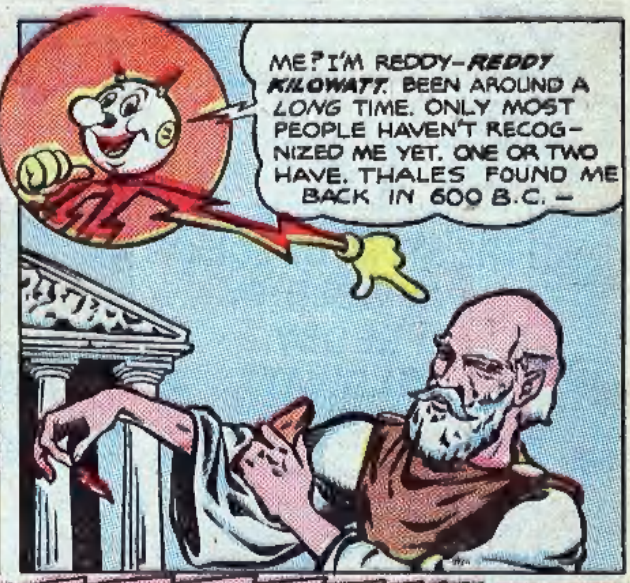
WIZARD OF LIGHT

THE STORY OF EDISON AS TOLD BY REDDY KILOWATT ®

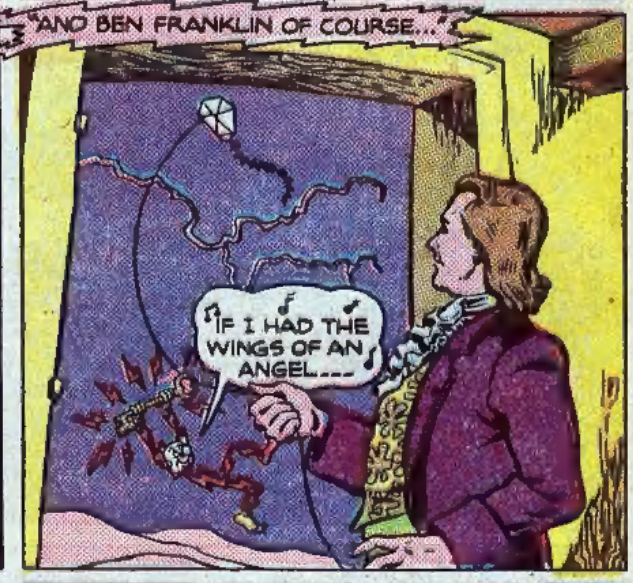


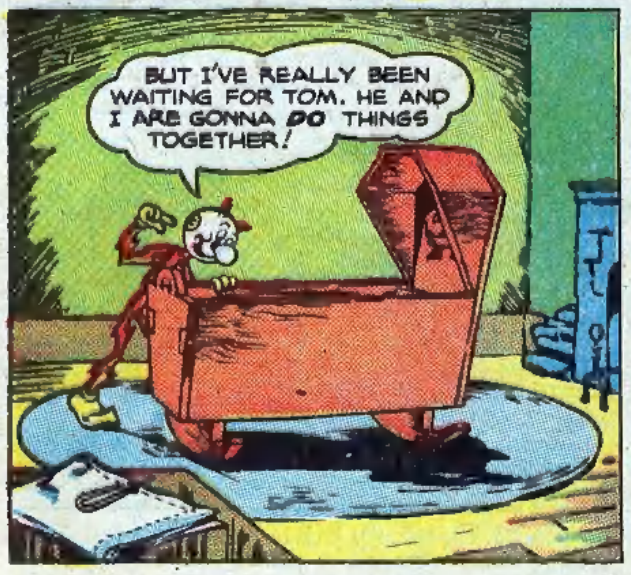
Reddy Kilowatt Comic Book No. 2. Copyright 1958 by Reddy Kilowatt, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Produced for Reddy Kilowatt, Inc. by Educational Comics, N.Y.C. (Printed in U.S.A.)

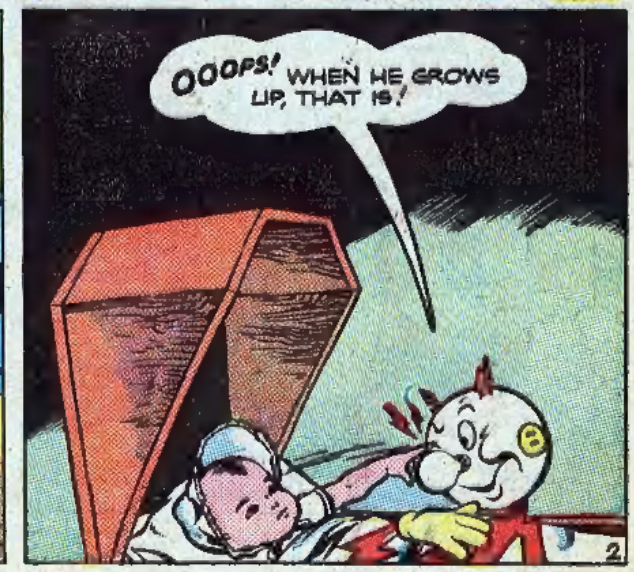

WHAZZAT! WHO IS HE? SAY— THAT'S MY BOY, TOM— THOMAS ALVA EDISON! HE'S JUST BEEN BORN!

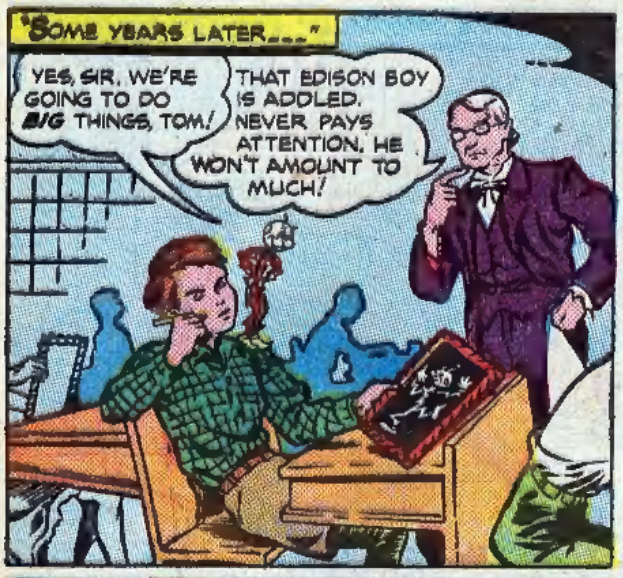

ME? I'M REDDY—REDDY KILOWATT. BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. ONLY MOST PEOPLE HAVEN'T RECOGNIZED ME YET. ONE OR TWO HAVE. THALES FOUND ME BACK IN 600 B.C.—

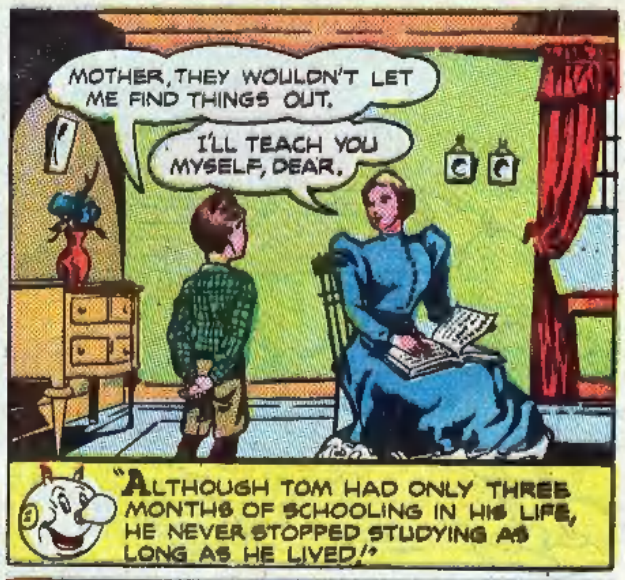
—IN A PIECE OF AMBER

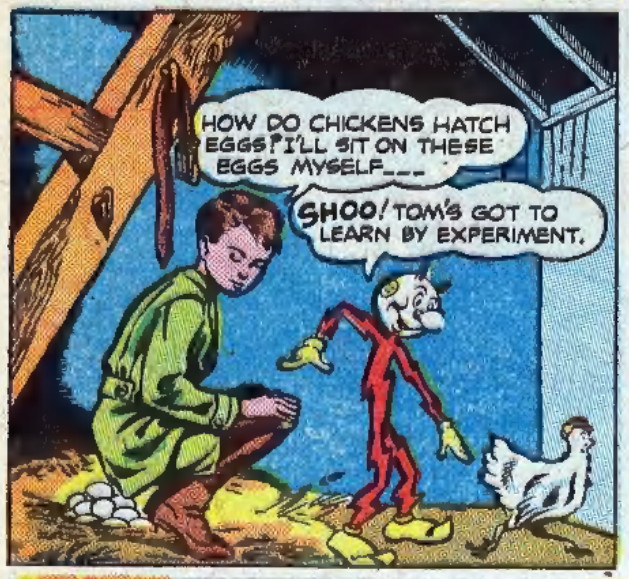

"AND BEN FRANKLIN OF COURSE..."
IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL...


BUT I'VE REALLY BEEN WAITING FOR TOM. HE AND I ARE GONNA DO THINGS TOGETHER!


OOOPS! WHEN HE GROWS UP, THAT IS!

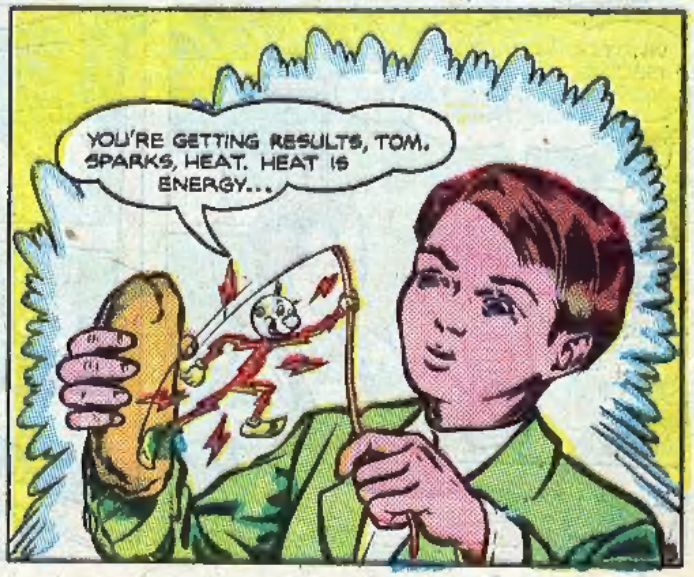

"SOME YEARS LATER..."
YES, SIR. WE'RE GOING TO DO BIG THINGS, TOM!
THAT EDISON BOY IS ADDLED. NEVER PAYS ATTENTION. HE WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH!

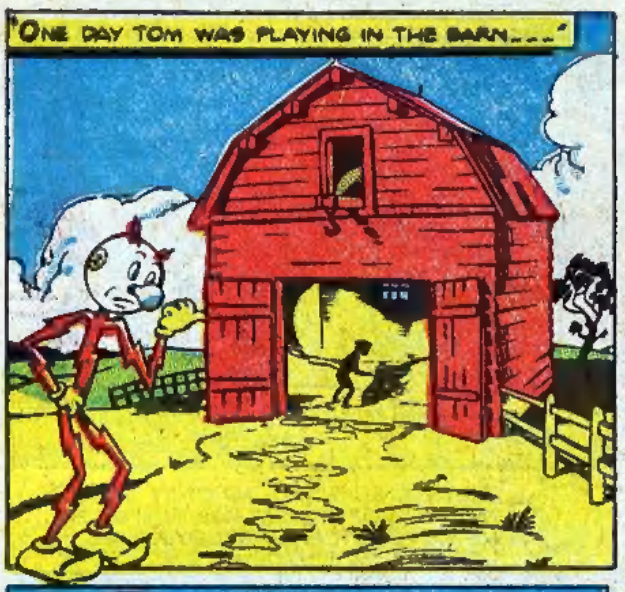

MOTHER, THEY WOULDN'T LET ME FIND THINGS OUT.
I'LL TEACH YOU MYSELF, DEAR.
"ALTHOUGH TOM HAD ONLY THREE MONTHS OF SCHOOLING IN HIS LIFE, HE NEVER STOPPED STUDYING AS LONG AS HE LIVED."

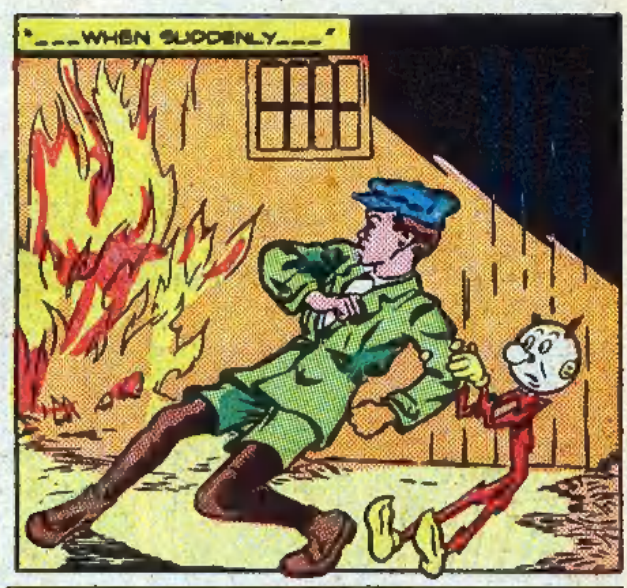

HOW DO CHICKENS HATCH EGGS? I'LL SIT ON THESE EGGS MYSELF...
SHOO! TOM'S GOT TO LEARN BY EXPERIMENT.

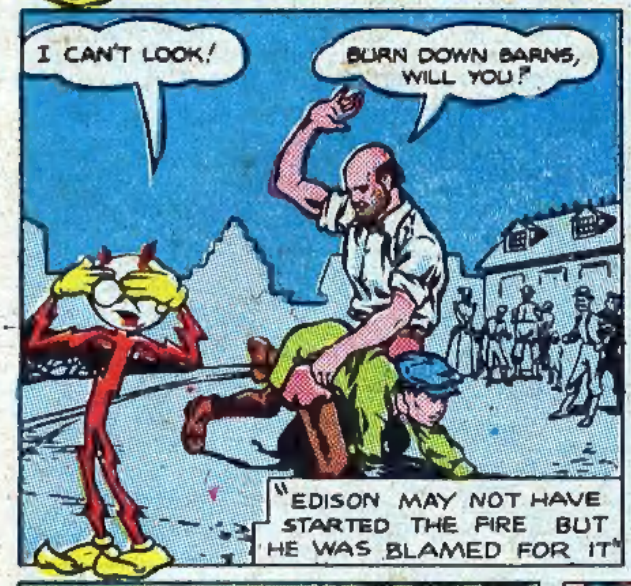
YOU'LL NEVER BE A HEN'S MOTHER, TOM... BUT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES. CURIOSITY. INGENUITY. DETERMINATION.

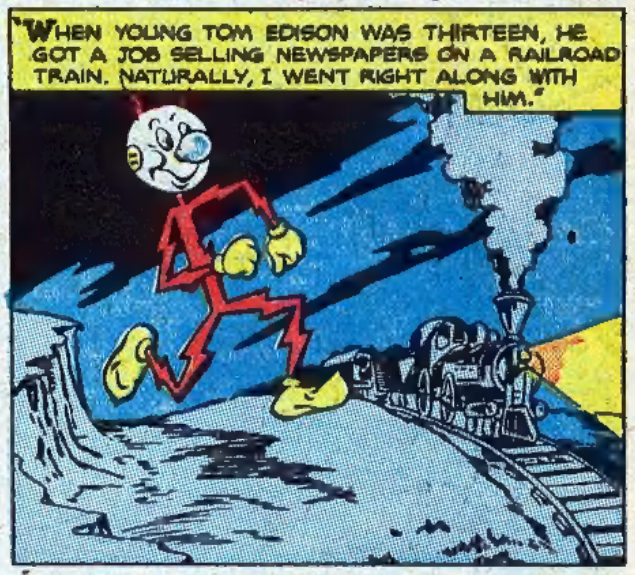
HURRY AND GROW UP, SO I CAN GO TO WORK FOR YOU! WHATCHA DOIN' NOW?

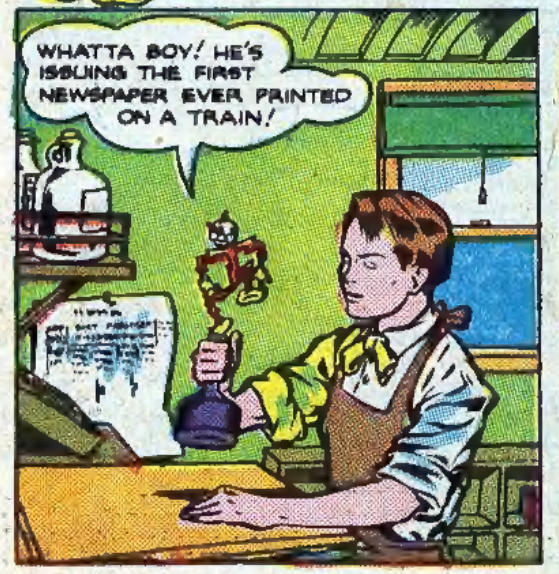

YOU'RE GETTING RESULTS, TOM. SPARKS, HEAT. HEAT IS ENERGY...

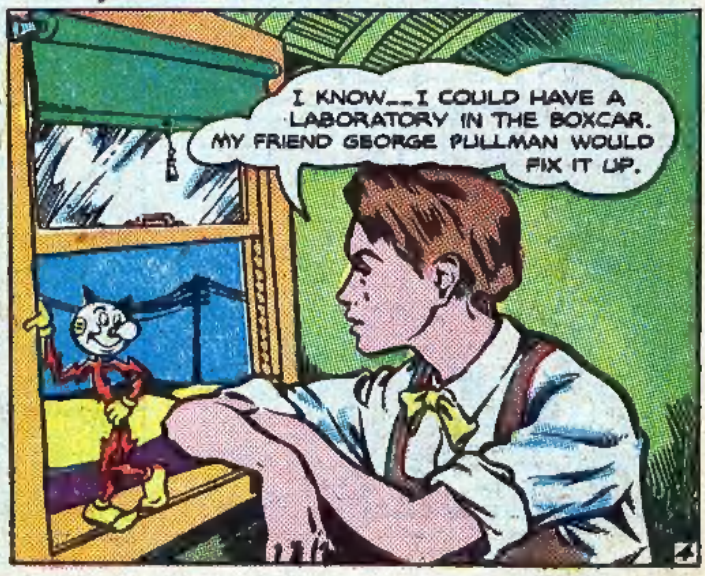

"ONE DAY TOM WAS PLAYING IN THE BARN...."


"...WHEN SUDDENLY...."


I CAN'T LOOK!
BURN DOWN BARNS, WILL YOU!
"EDISON MAY NOT HAVE STARTED THE FIRE BUT HE WAS BLAMED FOR IT"


"WHEN YOUNG TOM EDISON WAS THIRTEEN, HE GOT A JOB SELLING NEWSPAPERS ON A RAILROAD TRAIN. NATURALLY, I WENT RIGHT ALONG WITH HIM."

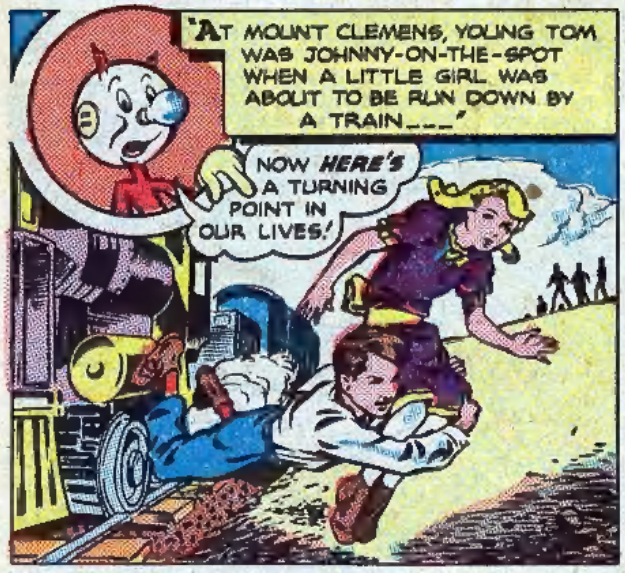

WHATTA BOY! HE'S ISSUING THE FIRST NEWSPAPER EVER PRINTED ON A TRAIN!

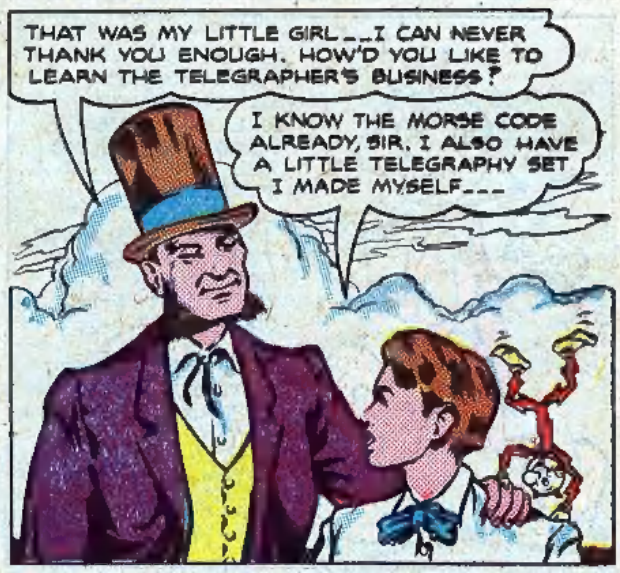

I KNOW...I COULD HAVE A LABORATORY IN THE BOXCAR. MY FRIEND GEORGE PULLMAN WOULD FIX IT UP.

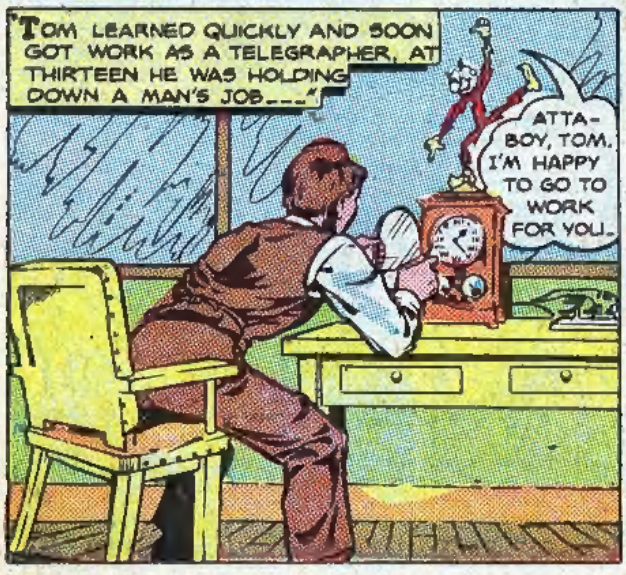
AND SO TOM GOT HIS OWN LABORATORY."
HEY__IF THOSE CHEMICALS MIX__ WATCH IT, TOM!

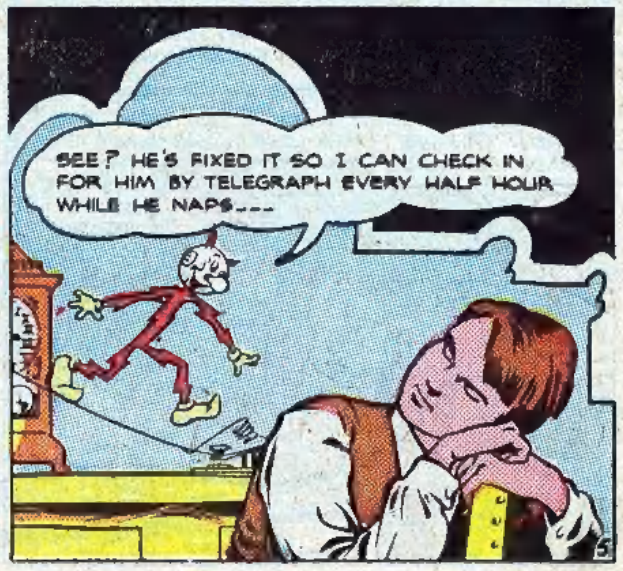
THAT CURIOSITY IS WONDERFUL__BUT IT'S ALWAYS GETTING HIM INTO TROUBLE!
HELP! FIRE!

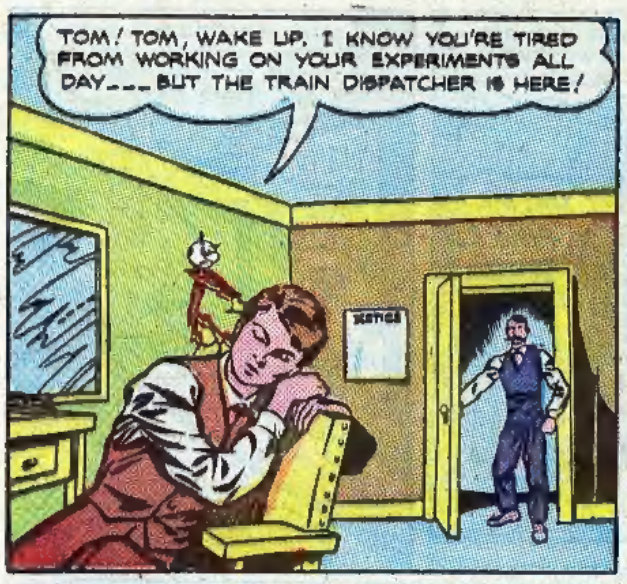
AND DON'T COME BACK!
CHEER UP, TOM. WE'LL GET THERE YET!
SMITH'S CREEK

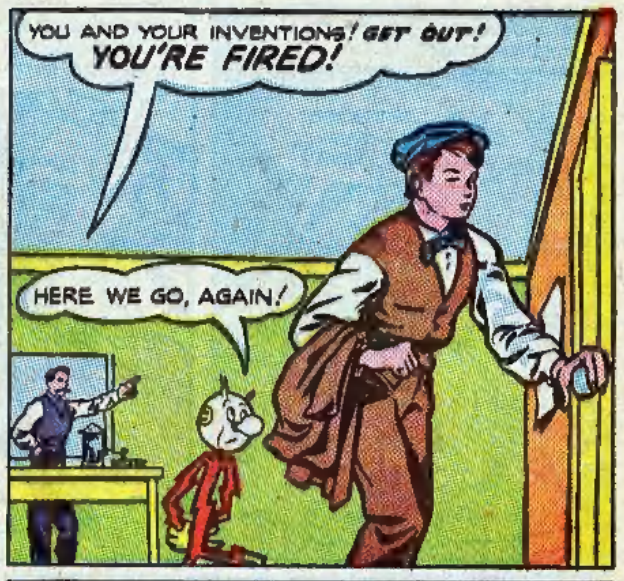

"AT MOUNT CLEMENS, YOUNG TOM WAS JOHNNY-ON-THE-SPOT WHEN A LITTLE GIRL WAS ABOUT TO BE RUN DOWN BY A TRAIN___"
NOW HERE'S A TURNING POINT IN OUR LIVES!

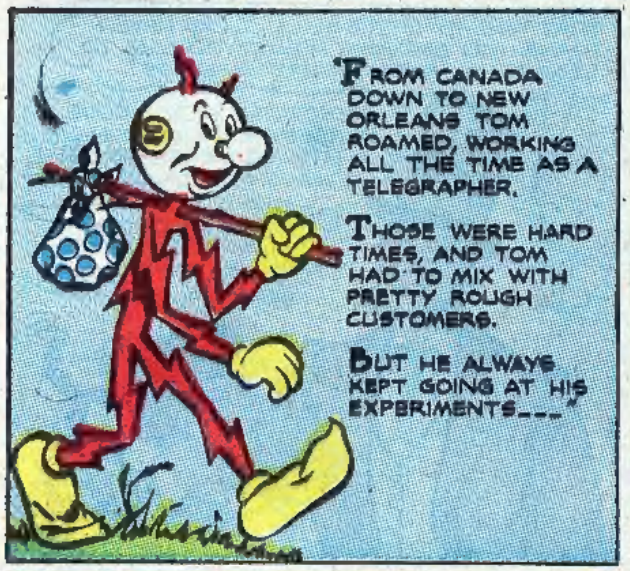

THAT WAS MY LITTLE GIRL__I CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH. HOW'D YOU LIKE TO LEARN THE TELEGRAPHER'S BUSINESS?
I KNOW THE MORSE CODE ALREADY, SIR. I ALSO HAVE A LITTLE TELEGRAPHY SET I MADE MYSELF___

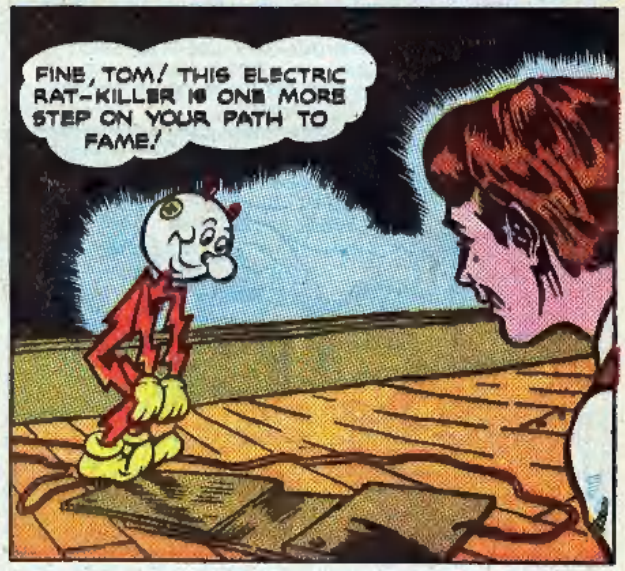

TOM LEARNED QUICKLY AND SOON GOT WORK AS A TELEGRAPHER. AT THIRTEEN HE WAS HOLDING DOWN A MAN'S JOB___"
ATTA-BOY, TOM. I'M HAPPY TO GO TO WORK FOR YOU.


SEE? HE'S FIXED IT SO I CAN CHECK IN FOR HIM BY TELEGRAPH EVERY HALF HOUR WHILE HE NAPS___


TOM! TOM, WAKE UP. I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED FROM WORKING ON YOUR EXPERIMENTS ALL DAY--- BUT THE TRAIN DISPATCHER IS HERE!
NOTICE


YOU AND YOUR INVENTIONS! GET OUT! YOU'RE FIRED!
HERE WE GO, AGAIN!


FROM CANADA DOWN TO NEW ORLEANS TOM ROAMED, WORKING ALL THE TIME AS A TELEGRAPHER.
THOSE WERE HARD TIMES, AND TOM HAD TO MIX WITH PRETTY ROUGH CUSTOMERS.
BUT HE ALWAYS KEPT GOING AT HIS EXPERIMENTS---


FINE, TOM! THIS ELECTRIC RAT-KILLER IS ONE MORE STEP ON YOUR PATH TO FAME!

TOM GOT A JOB IN BOSTON AS TELEGRAPHER. THE OLD HANDS IN THE OFFICE GANGED UP ON YOUNG TOM---"
WATCH--THAT NEW YORK OPERATOR WILL THROW THIS KID FOR A LOSS---HE SENDS LIKE CHAIN-LIGHTNING!
HUH, THEY DON'T KNOW MY BOY!

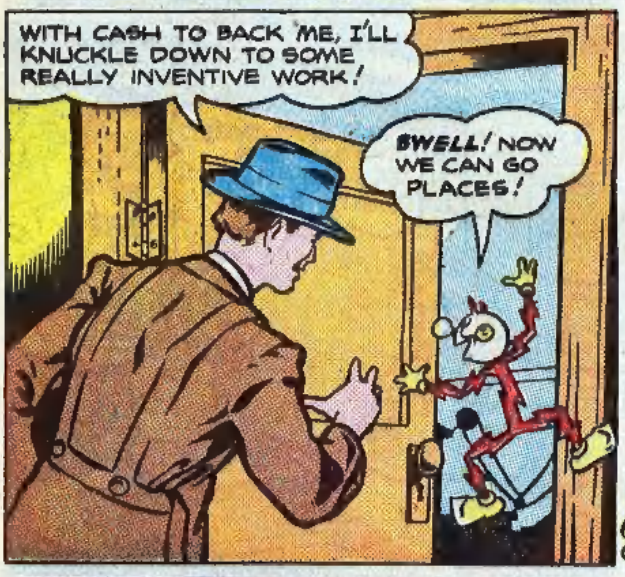
LOOK--HE'S GETTING IT! HE'S KEEPING RIGHT UP WITH HIM!
AND SUCH GOOD HANDWRITING, TOO!

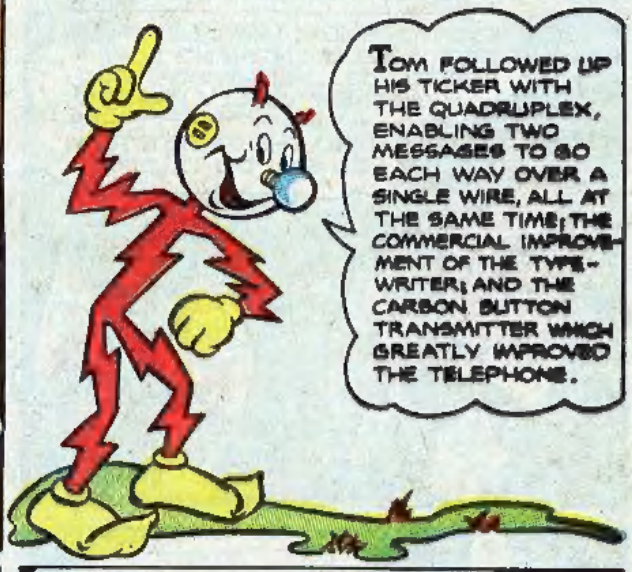
THAT'S TELLING HIM!
GET-A-HUSTLE-ON
SHOWED UP THAT SMART ALECK OPERATOR!

"IN 1869..."
SO THIS IS NEW YORK!
YEP... WE'RE GOING TO TOWN!

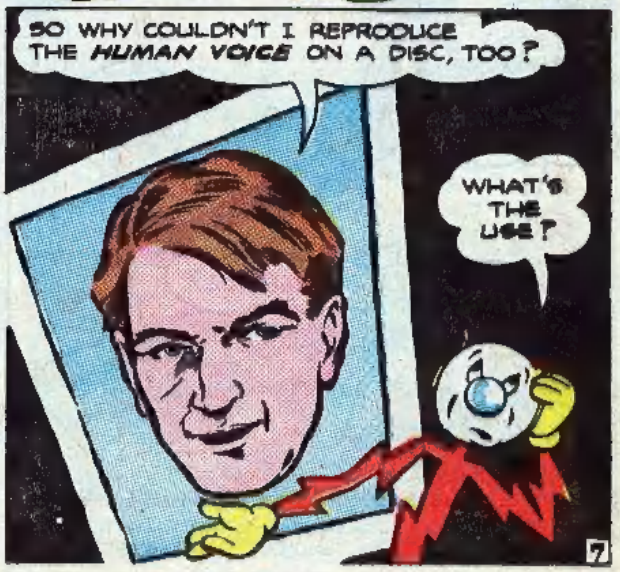
"IN NEW YORK, TOM EDISON PERFECTED HIS STOCK TICKER INVENTION."
I MIGHT GET $3000 FOR THIS... MAYBE EVEN $5000.
NOT BAD ...BUT IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING...

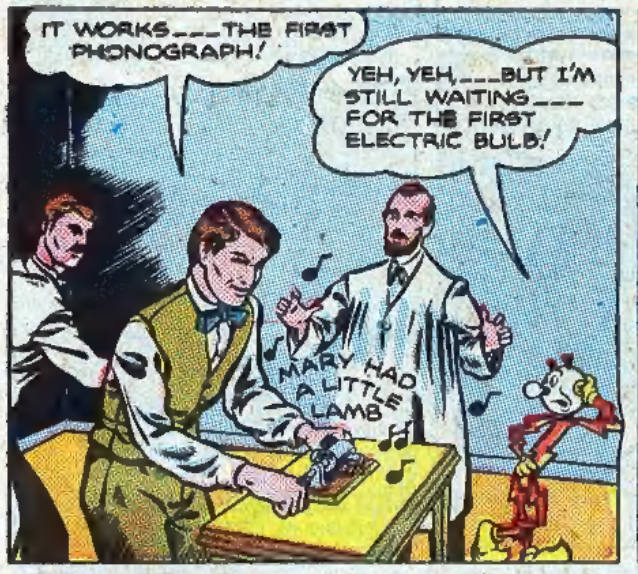
MR. EDISON, WILL YOU TAKE $40,000 FOR THIS INVENTION?
STEADY, MAN!
EDISON IS LEFT SPEECHLESS!

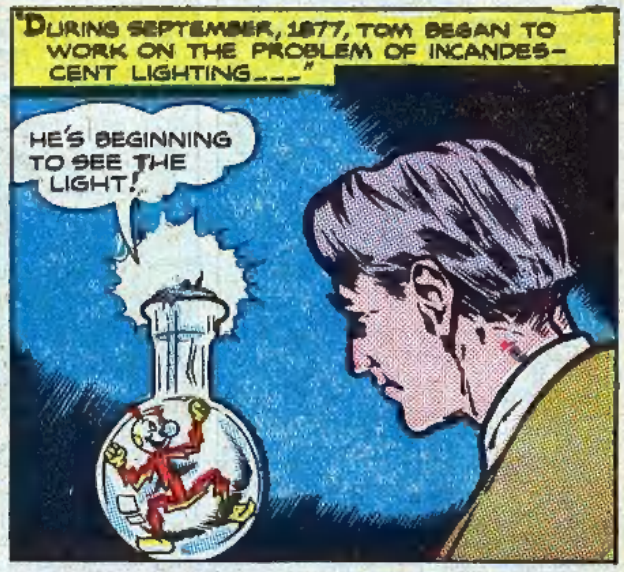

WITH CASH TO BACK ME, I'LL KNUCKLE DOWN TO SOME REALLY INVENTIVE WORK!
SWELL! NOW WE CAN GO PLACES!

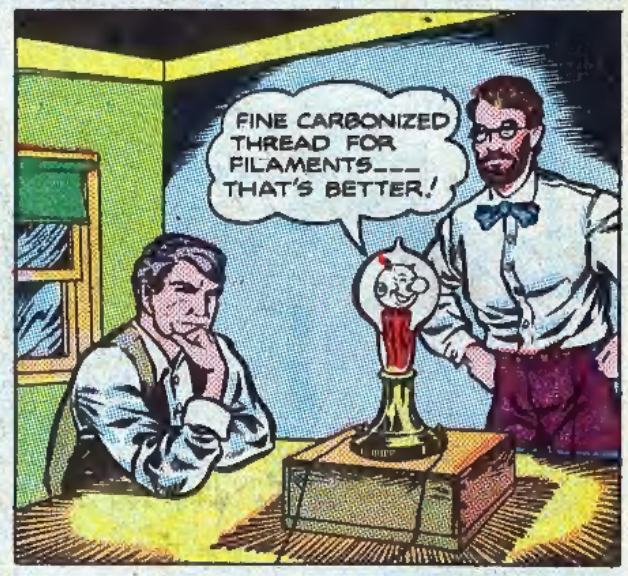

TOM FOLLOWED UP HIS TICKER WITH THE QUADRUPLEX, ENABLING TWO MESSAGES TO GO EACH WAY OVER A SINGLE WIRE, ALL AT THE SAME TIME; THE COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE TYPEWRITER; AND THE CARBON BUTTON TRANSMITTER WHICH GREATLY IMPROVED THE TELEPHONE.

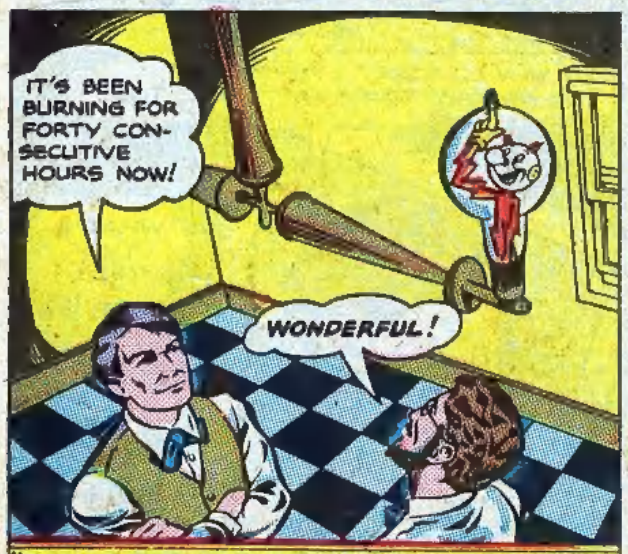
PLEASE, TOM. LET'S GET TO WORK ON ME! THIS IS ALL VERY WELL, BUT...
I CAN RECORD TELEGRAPH MESSAGES ON THIS DISC OF PAPER...


SO WHY COULDN'T I REPRODUCE THE HUMAN VOICE ON A DISC, TOO?
WHAT'S THE USE?

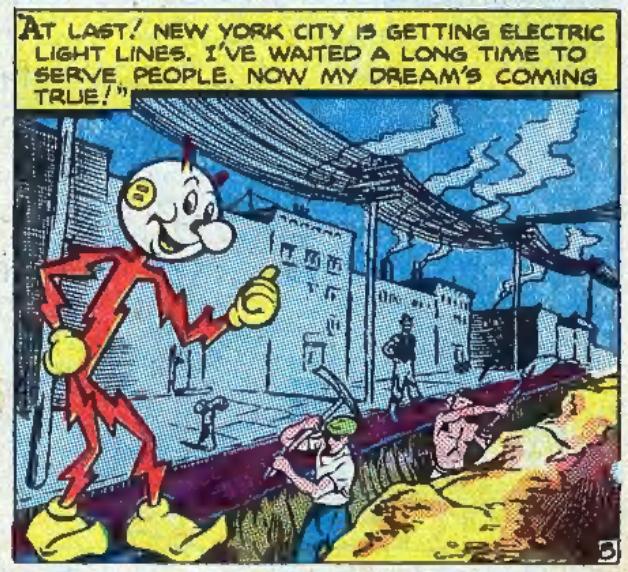


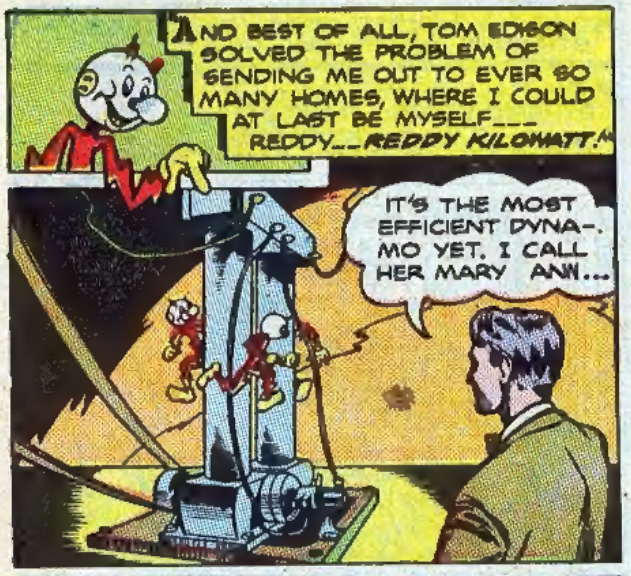


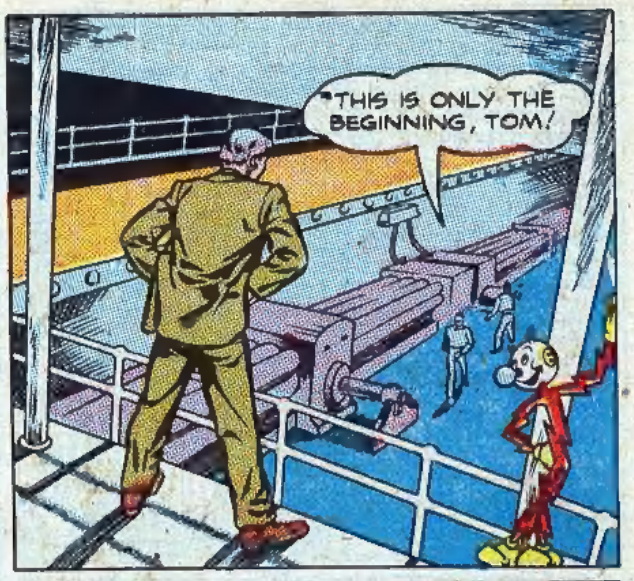




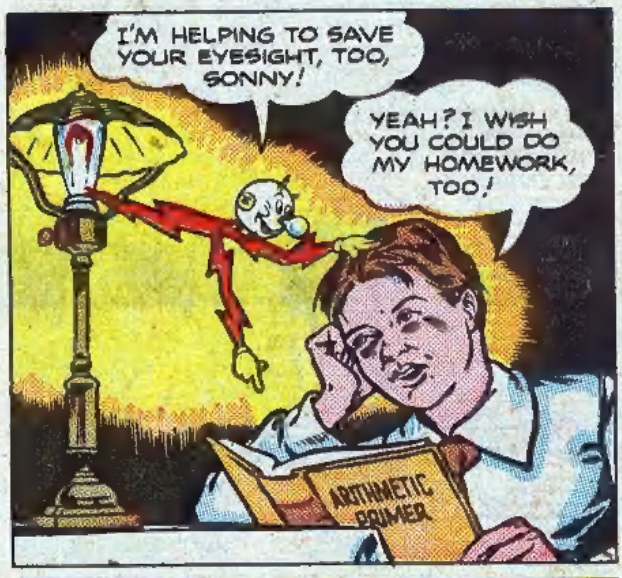
"AFTER THOUSANDS OF EXPERIMENTS, EDISON PERFECTED THE INCANDESCENT LAMP."

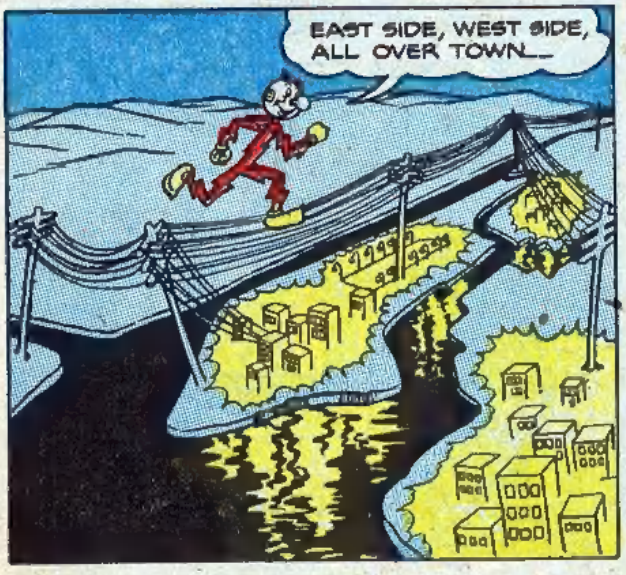


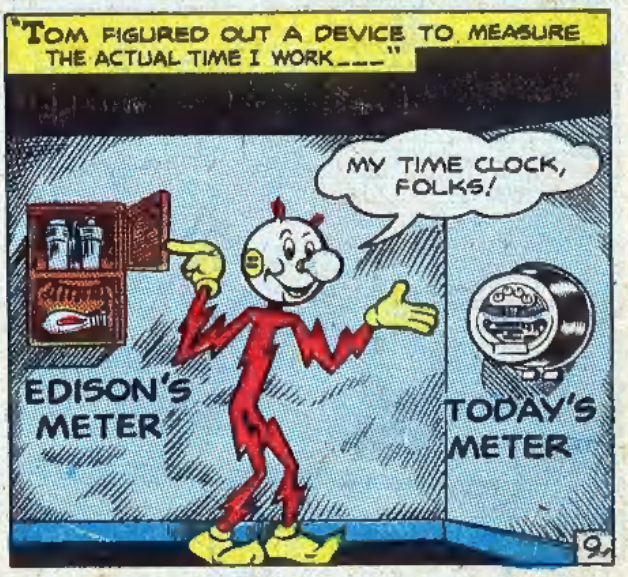

AND BEST OF ALL, TOM EDISON SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF SENDING ME OUT TO EVER SO MANY HOMES, WHERE I COULD AT LAST BE MYSELF___ REDDY__REDDY KILOWATT!"
IT'S THE MOST EFFICIENT DYNA-. MO YET. I CALL HER MARY ANN...

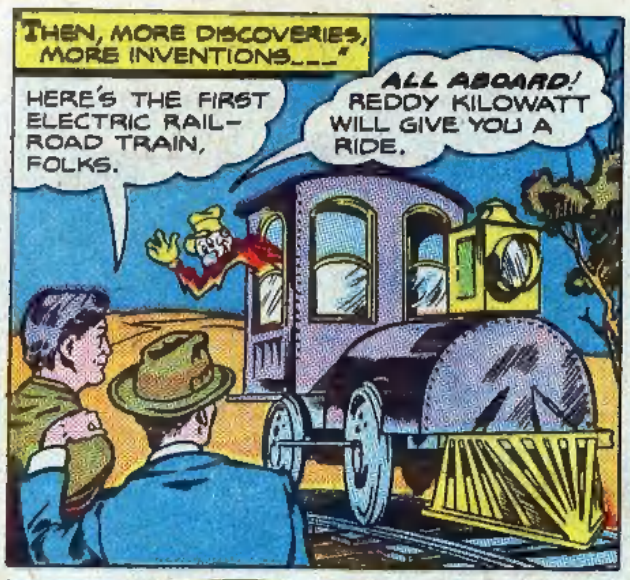

"THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, TOM!

HAVE A GOOD TIME, FOLKS!

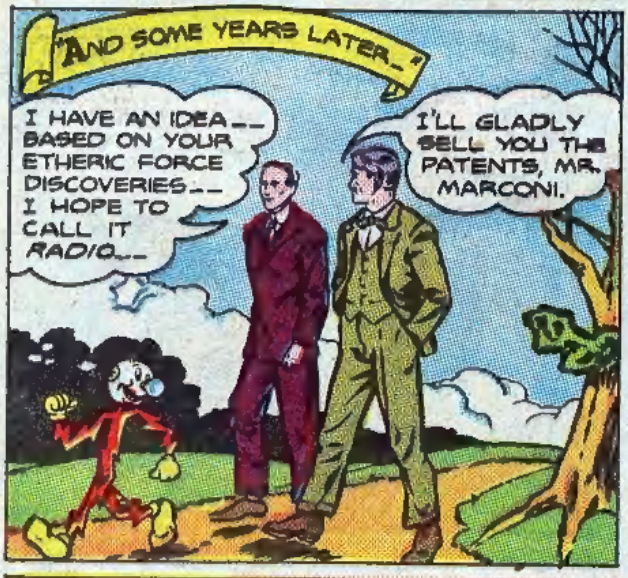

I'M HELPING TO SAVE YOUR EYESIGHT, TOO, SONNY!
YEAH? I WISH YOU COULD DO MY HOMEWORK, TOO!
ARITHMETIC PRIMER

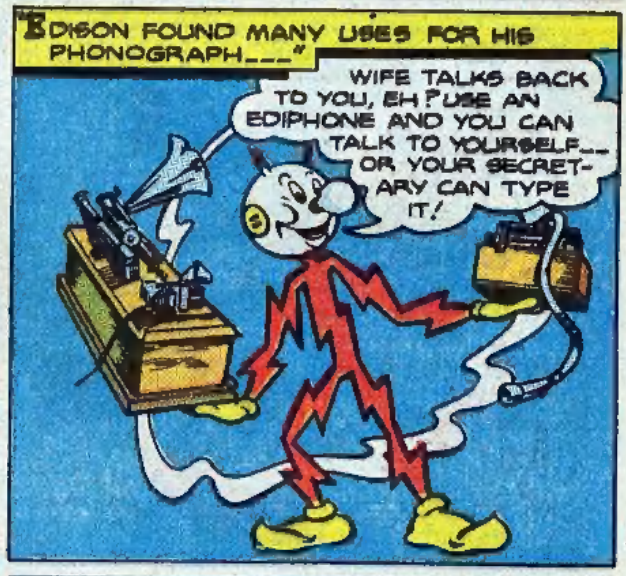

EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE, ALL OVER TOWN__

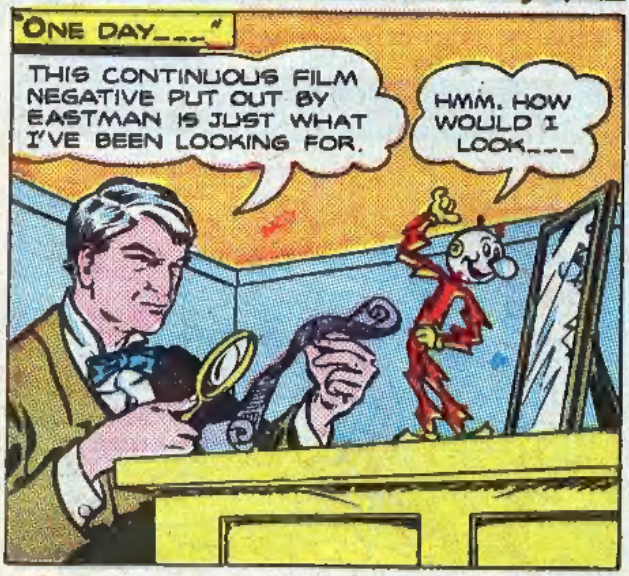

"TOM FIGURED OUT A DEVICE TO MEASURE THE ACTUAL TIME I WORK___"
MY TIME CLOCK, FOLKS!
EDISON'S METER
TODAY'S METER

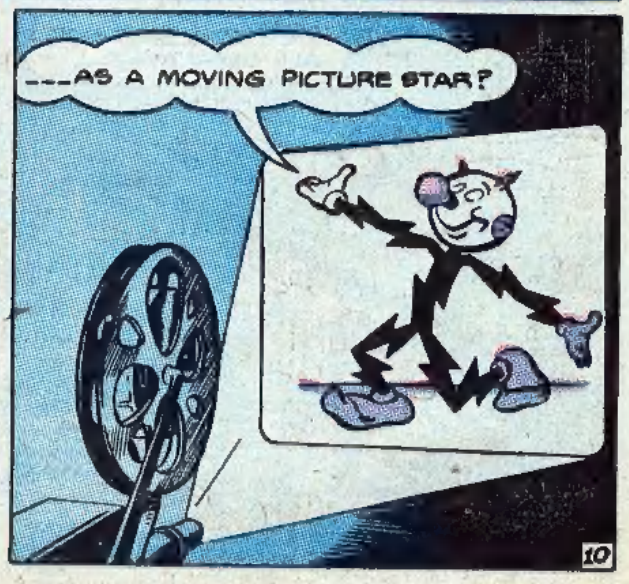

THEN, MORE DISCOVERIES, MORE INVENTIONS___"
HERE'S THE FIRST ELECTRIC RAIL-ROAD TRAIN, FOLKS.
ALL ABOARD! REDDY KILOWATT WILL GIVE YOU A RIDE.

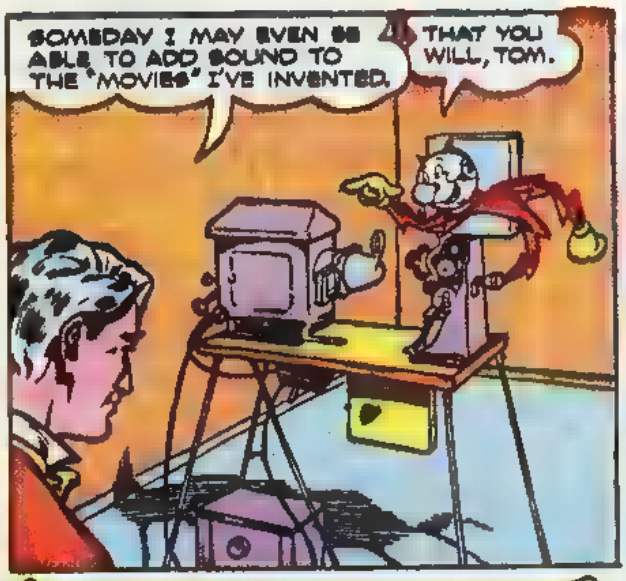
AS EARLY AS 1875, EDISON DISCOVERED A STRANGE ELECTRICAL EFFECT___"
I'LL CALL IT ETHERIC FORCE.
YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET, TOM__ BUT RADIO IS GOING TO SPRING OUT OF THIS DISCOVERY OF YOURS!

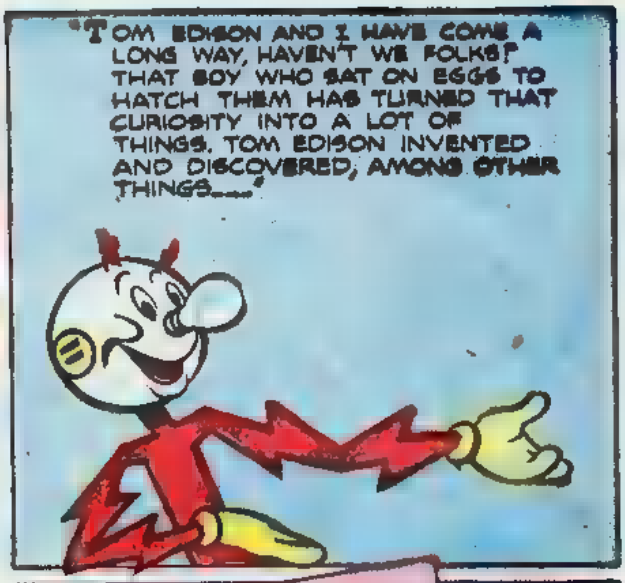

"AND SOME YEARS LATER__"
I HAVE AN IDEA__ BASED ON YOUR ETHERIC FORCE DISCOVERIES__ I HOPE TO CALL IT RADIO__
I'LL GLADLY SELL YOU THE PATENTS, MR. MARCONI.

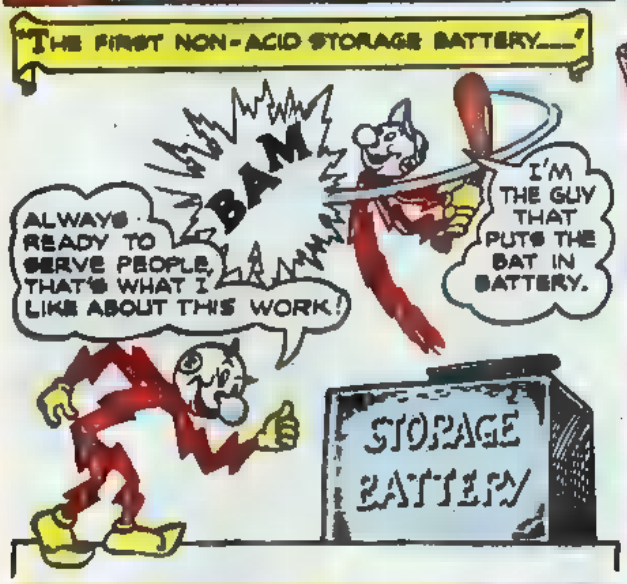

EDISON FOUND MANY USES FOR HIS PHONOGRAPH___"
WIFE TALKS BACK TO YOU, EH? USE AN EDIPHONE AND YOU CAN TALK TO YOURSELF__ OR YOUR SECRETARY CAN TYPE IT!

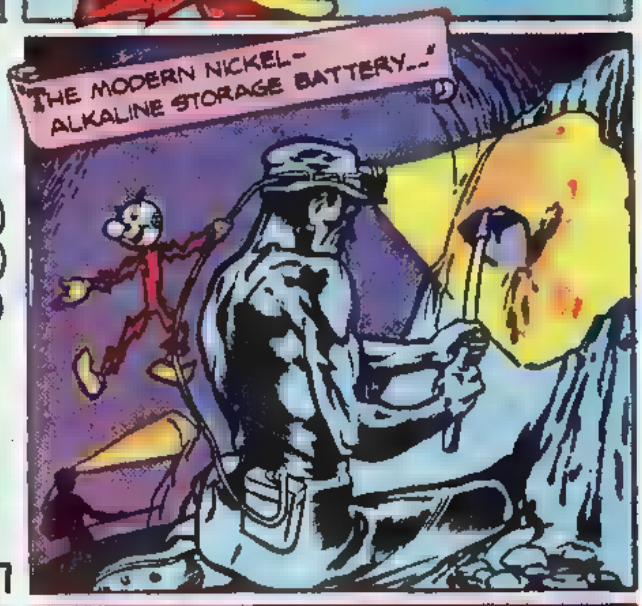

ONE DAY___"
THIS CONTINUOUS FILM NEGATIVE PUT OUT BY EASTMAN IS JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
HMM. HOW WOULD I LOOK___

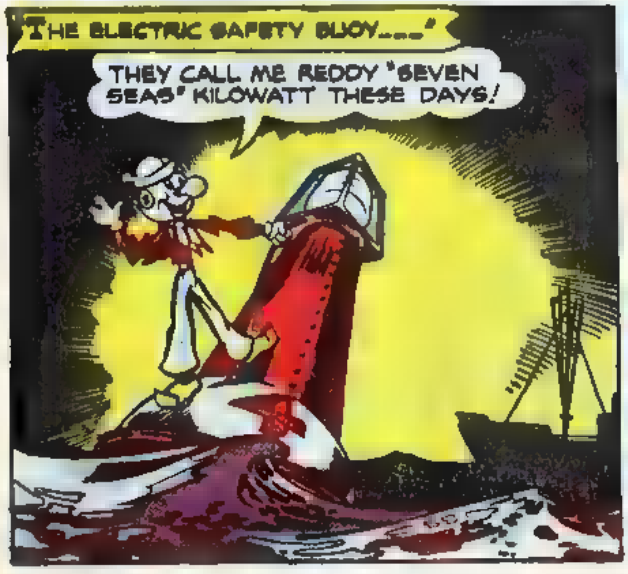

___AS A MOVING PICTURE STAR?

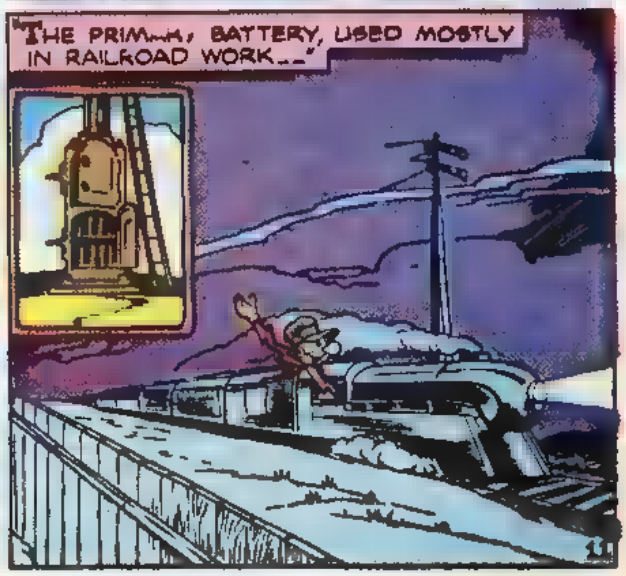

SOMEDAY I MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO ADD SOUND TO THE "MOVIES" I'VE INVENTED.
THAT YOU WILL, TOM.

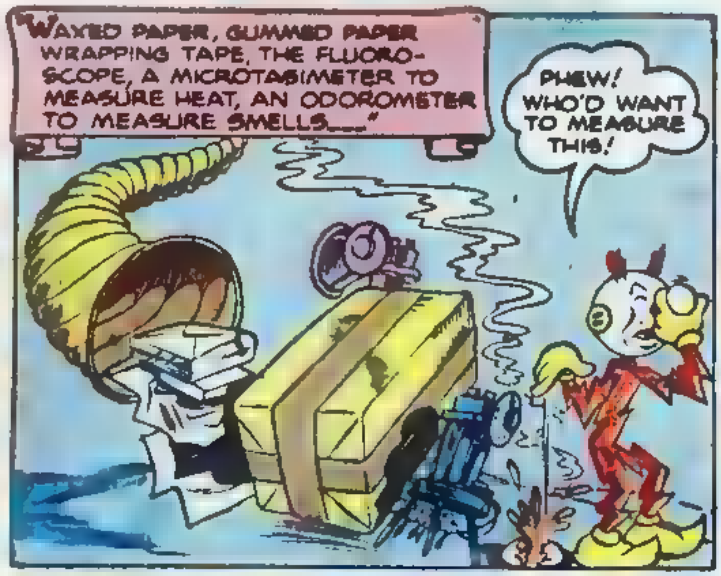

"TOM EDISON AND I HAVE COME A LONG WAY, HAVEN'T WE FOLKS? THAT BOY WHO SAT ON EGGS TO HATCH THEM HAS TURNED THAT CURIOSITY INTO A LOT OF THINGS. TOM EDISON INVENTED AND DISCOVERED, AMONG OTHER THINGS...."


"THE FIRST NON-ACID STORAGE BATTERY...."
BAM
ALWAYS READY TO SERVE PEOPLE, THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THIS WORK!
I'M THE GUY THAT PUTS THE BAT IN BATTERY.
STORAGE BATTERY

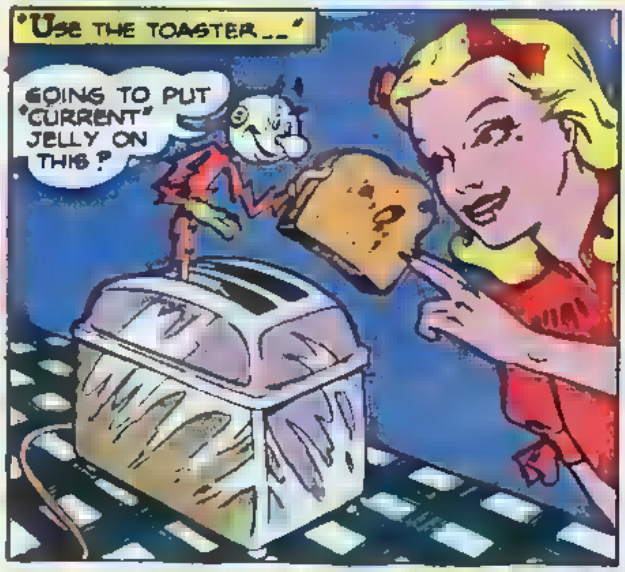

"THE MODERN NICKEL-ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERY..."

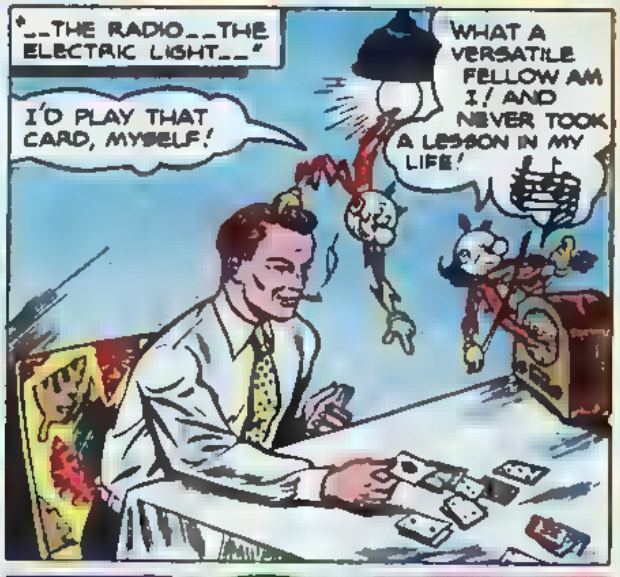

"THE ELECTRIC SAFETY BUOY...."
THEY CALL ME REDDY "SEVEN SEAS" KILOWATT THESE DAYS!

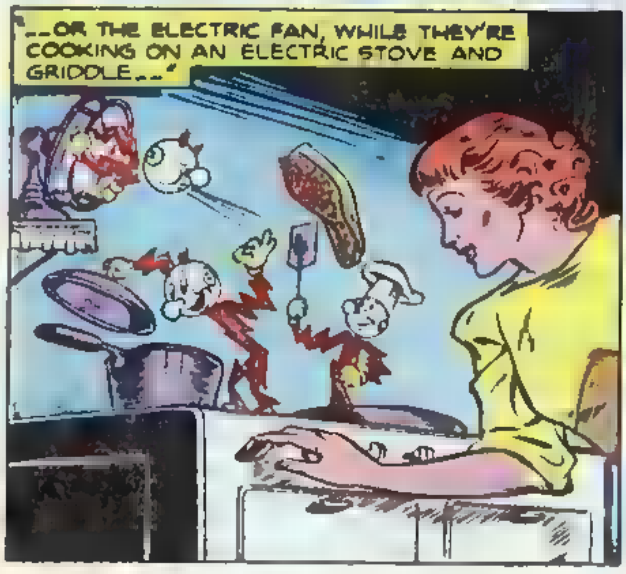

"THE PRIM..., BATTERY, USED MOSTLY IN RAILROAD WORK..."

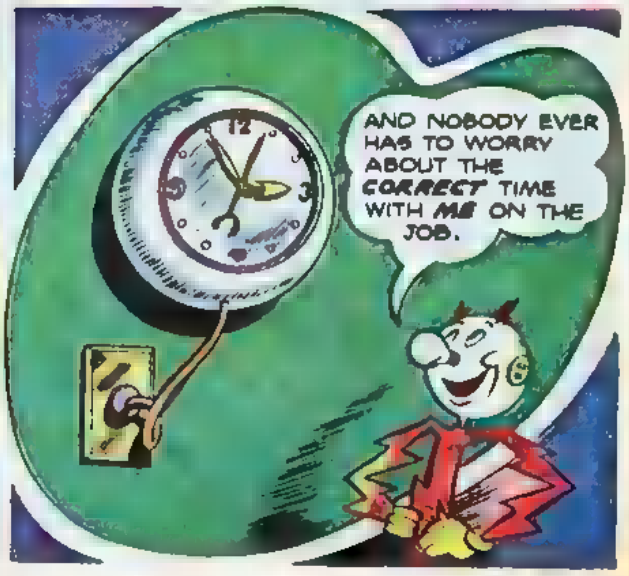

"WAXED PAPER, GUMMED PAPER WRAPPING TAPE, THE FLUOROSCOPE, A MICROTASIMETER TO MEASURE HEAT, AN ODOROMETER TO MEASURE SMELLS..."
PHEW! WHO'D WANT TO MEASURE THIS!

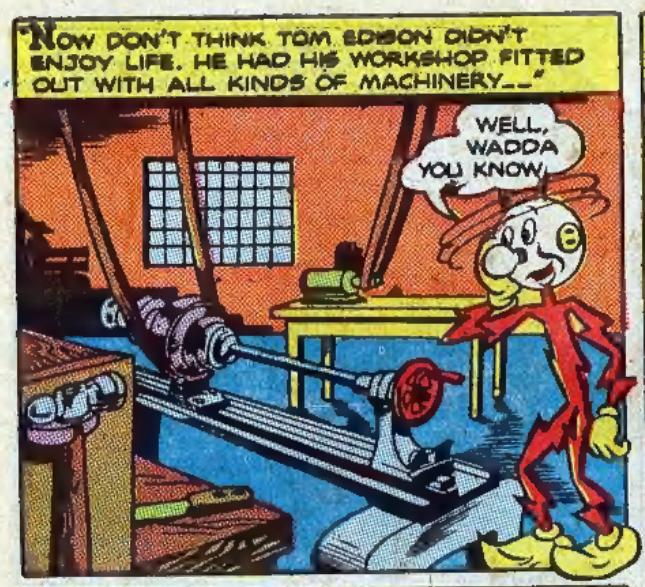
"THOMAS ALVA EDISON TOOK OUT OVER A THOUSAND PATENTS ON HIS INVENTIONS."
I CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN MIXED UP IN A LOT OF THINGS!
THE BEST PART IS, YOU'VE MIXED ME UP IN A LOT OF THINGS, TOO! YOU'VE GIVEN ME TO THE PEOPLE, TOM. THEY CAN NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH EVERY TIME THEY...

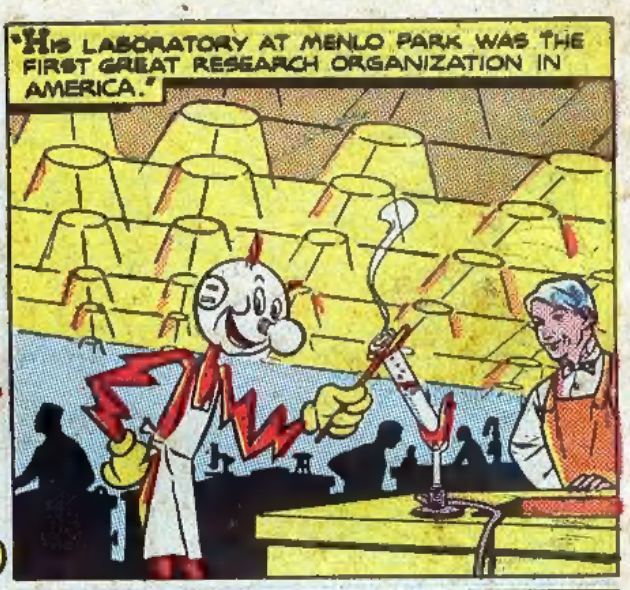

"USE THE TOASTER..."
GOING TO PUT "CURRENT" JELLY ON THIS?

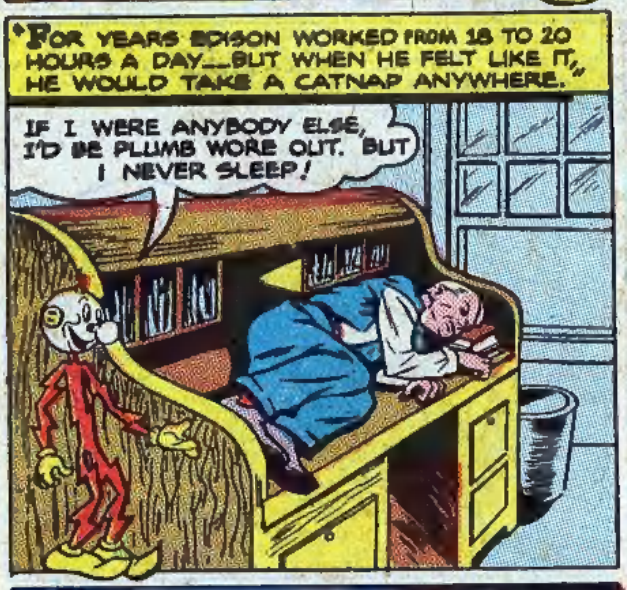

"...THE RADIO...THE ELECTRIC LIGHT..."
I'D PLAY THAT CARD, MYSELF!
WHAT A VERSATILE FELLOW AM I! AND NEVER TOOK A LESSON IN MY LIFE!

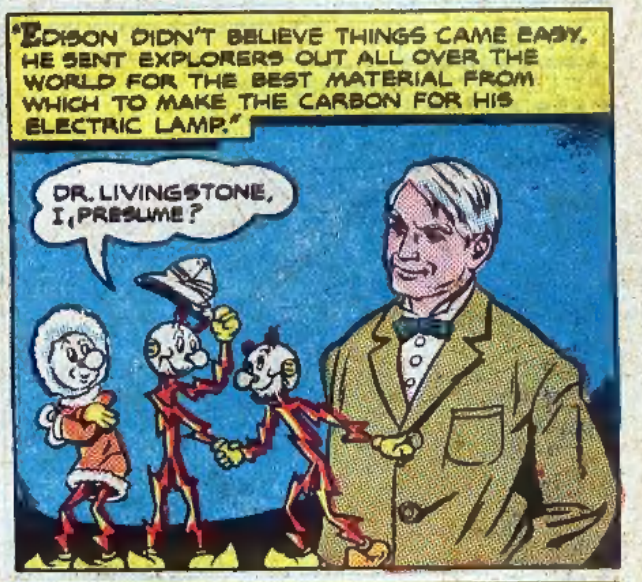

"...OR THE ELECTRIC FAN, WHILE THEY'RE COOKING ON AN ELECTRIC STOVE AND GRIDDLE..."


AND NOBODY EVER HAS TO WORRY ABOUT THE CORRECT TIME WITH ME ON THE JOB.


"NOW DON'T THINK TOM EDISON DIDN'T ENJOY LIFE. HE HAD HIS WORKSHOP FITTED OUT WITH ALL KINDS OF MACHINERY__"
WELL, WADDA YOU KNOW!


"HIS LABORATORY AT MENLO PARK WAS THE FIRST GREAT RESEARCH ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA."


"FOR YEARS EDISON WORKED FROM 18 TO 20 HOURS A DAY__BUT WHEN HE FELT LIKE IT, HE WOULD TAKE A CATNAP ANYWHERE."
IF I WERE ANYBODY ELSE, I'D BE PLUMB WORE OUT. BUT I NEVER SLEEP!


"EDISON DIDN'T BELIEVE THINGS CAME EASY. HE SENT EXPLORERS OUT ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR THE BEST MATERIAL FROM WHICH TO MAKE THE CARBON FOR HIS ELECTRIC LAMP."
DR. LIVINGSTONE, I PRESUME?

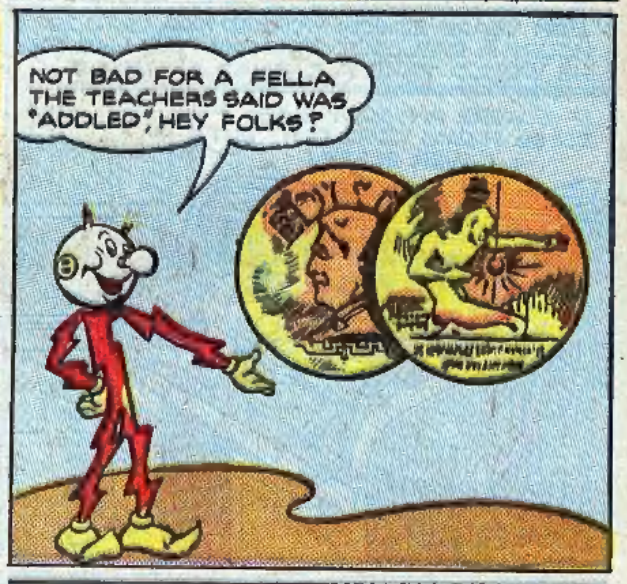
I AM PROUD TO MEET A GENIUS.
GENIUS? GENIUS IS ONE PERCENT INSPIRATION AND NINETY-NINE PERCENT PERSPIRATION.

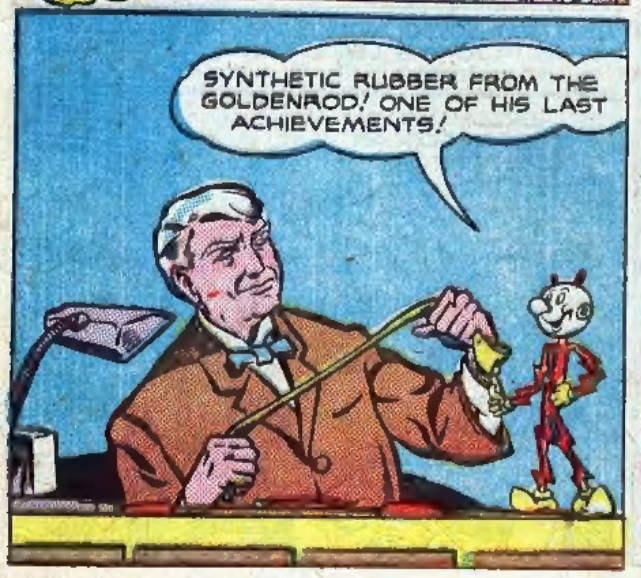
"BUT TOM LOVED A JOKE, TOO. HE WOULD COME IN TO THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF HIS PLANT DRESSED IN OLD CLOTHES___"
ER__ER__HAVE YOU ANY WORK FOR AN OLD INVENTOR?
JUST FOOL-IN', FOLKS. I NEVER GROW OLD!
LEGAL DEPT.

"WELL, NATURALLY, TOM EDISON GOT PLENTY OF HONORS AND ATTENTION IN HIS LATER YEARS. THERE WERE LETTERS FROM ALL OVER---"

"JOHN BURROUGHS THE NATURALIST, HENRY FORD, HARVEY FIRESTONE AND EDISON WERE GREAT FRIENDS---"
GET ME IN THE PICTURE, TOO!

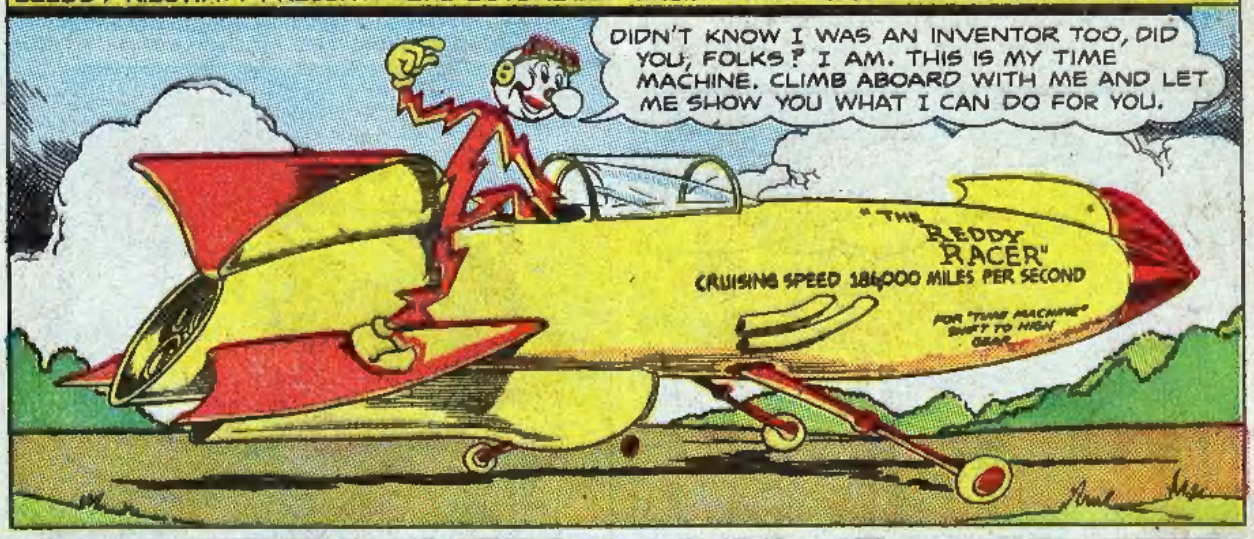
"IN 1928---"
THIS SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL READS: "HE ILLUMINATED THE PATH OF PROGRESS BY HIS INVENTIONS."

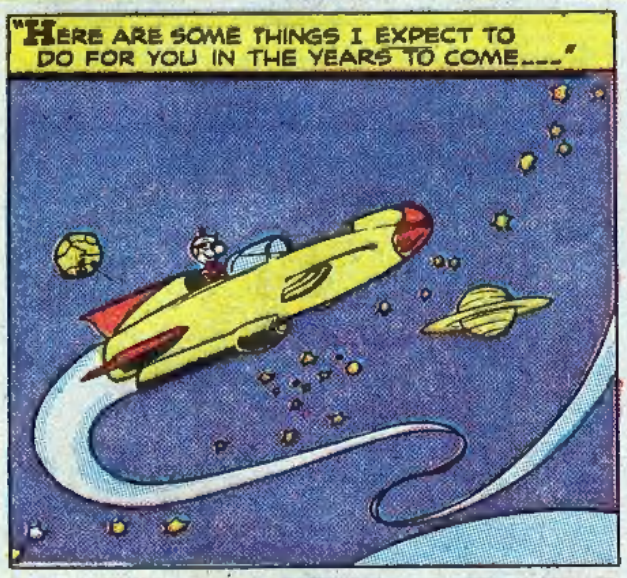

NOT BAD FOR A FELLA THE TEACHERS SAID WAS "ADDLED", HEY FOLKS?

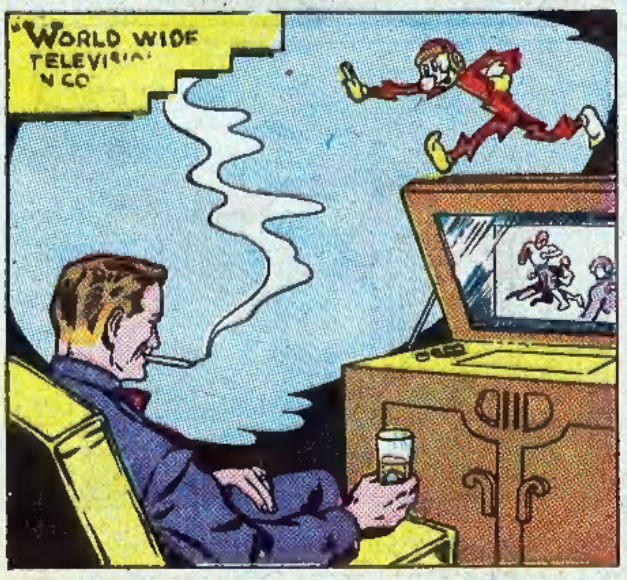

SYNTHETIC RUBBER FROM THE GOLDENROD! ONE OF HIS LAST ACHIEVEMENTS!

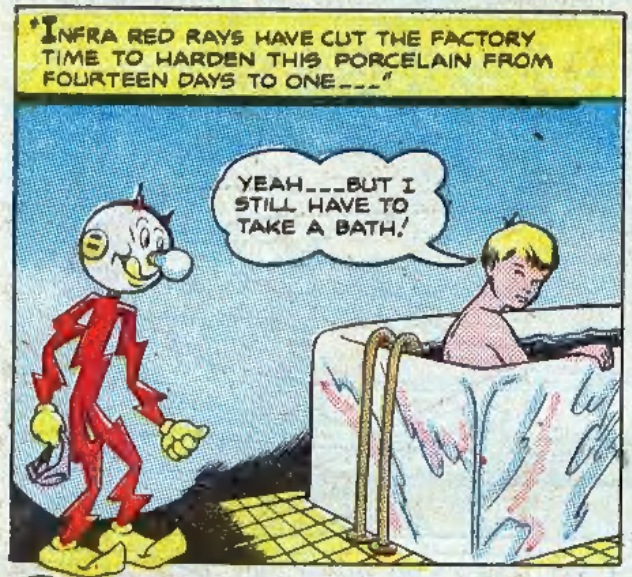
GREAT DAYS ARE AHEAD OF THIS NATION AND THE WORLD. AND ELECTRICITY WILL HAVE A GREAT PART TO PLAY, GRANTED ONLY THAT IT CAN BE UNFETTERED, WITH FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LARGEST POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND ENERGY.
THE WORLD SALUTES YOU, THOMAS ALVA EDISON!

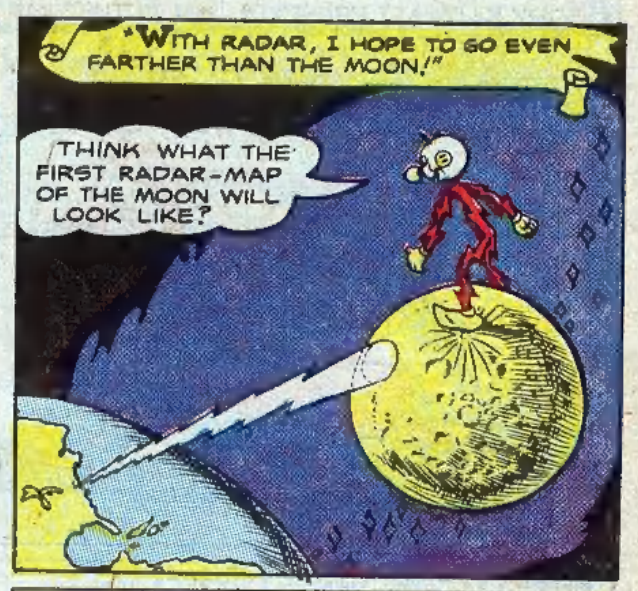
REDDY KILOWATT PRESENTS THE FUTURE AS THOMAS A. EDISON HELPED TO MAKE IT!

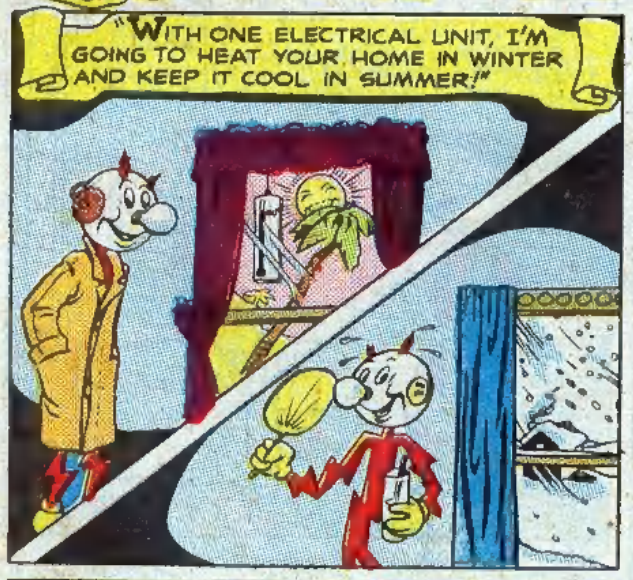


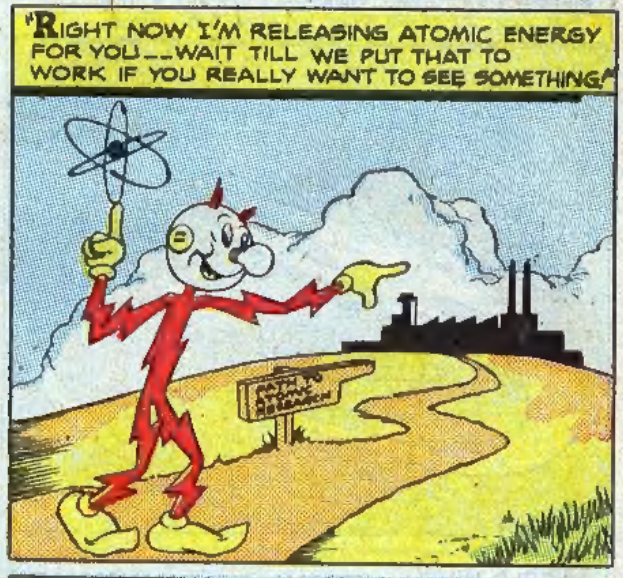


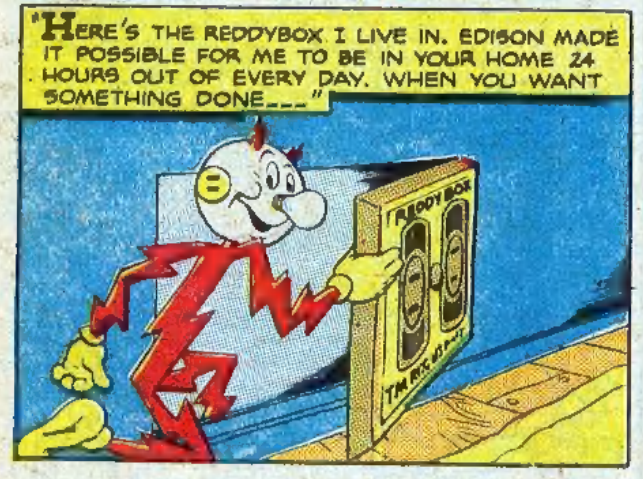


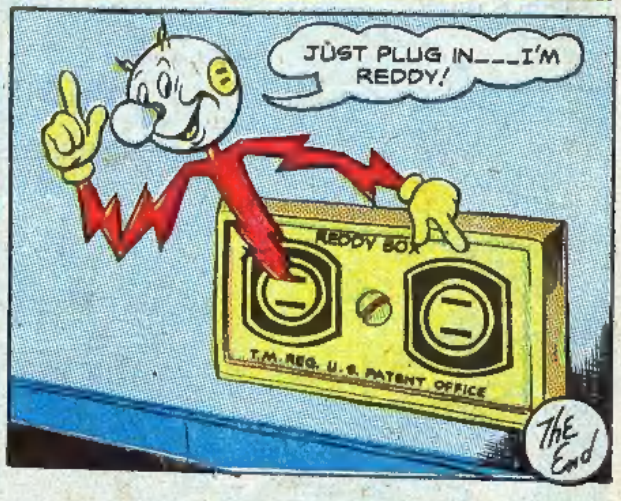

"INFRA RED RAYS HAVE CUT THE FACTORY TIME TO HARDEN THIS PORCELAIN FROM FOURTEEN DAYS TO ONE---"
YEAH---BUT I STILL HAVE TO TAKE A BATH!


"WITH RADAR, I HOPE TO GO EVEN FARTHER THAN THE MOON!"
THINK WHAT THE FIRST RADAR-MAP OF THE MOON WILL LOOK LIKE?


"WITH ONE ELECTRICAL UNIT, I'M GOING TO HEAT YOUR HOME IN WINTER AND KEEP IT COOL IN SUMMER!"


"RIGHT NOW I'M RELEASING ATOMIC ENERGY FOR YOU---WAIT TILL WE PUT THAT TO WORK IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE SOMETHING!"


"HERE'S THE REDDYBOX I LIVE IN. EDISON MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE IN YOUR HOME 24 HOURS OUT OF EVERY DAY. WHEN YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE---"
REDDY BOX


JUST PLUG IN---I'M REDDY!
REDDY BOX
T.M. REG. U.S. PATENT OFFICE
THE End